

DFG Wins Prestigious Internet Mapping Application Award

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California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Internet Map Services is the 2003 first-place award recipient of the "Best Internet Mapping Application Award," which was sought after by GIS (geographic information system) professionals from around the world. DFG's computer entry was one of more than 50 high-tech exhibits presented at the 23rd Annual Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International User Conference in San Diego.

DFG's mapping demonstration was on display at the conference's Internet and Multimedia Exhibition from July 7 - 10. The exhibit was developed as a by-product of DFG's Internet Mapping Service Web site. Located at <http://imaps.dfg.ca.gov> this user-friendly site utilizes specialized tools and natural resource data to enable DFG and the public to rapidly identify the location and status of plant and animal life found throughout California. Such information is frequently used for conservation planning and species recovery efforts.

"This award is a validation of our mission to provide staff and other resource managers with state-of-the art maps and related information instantly through the Internet," said Ron Rempel, deputy director of DFG's Habitat Conservation Division. "Such tools clearly enhance our ability to manage our natural resources and to better serve the public."

Presented by project leader and Research Manager Eric Haney, the winning demonstration included a 360-degree photography viewing of the Sierra Nevada's montane meadow habitats and quaking aspen communities. The demonstration project was prepared using DFG's highly customized ArcIMS Viewer software, which was developed by Eric Haney, Phil De'ak and Clint Kellar, with additional GIS data support from Jim Hotchkiss, Linda Miller, and Will Patterson.

"The competition for these awards is very stiff. It's quite prestigious to be recognized in this capacity and by this internationally acclaimed group," said Don Koch, manager of DFG's Northern California-North Coast Region.

Considered a world leader in GIS software, ESRI hosts the technology conference for international GIS professionals each year at a different location. This year's conference in San Diego attracted more than 11,000 people, and featured more than 1,000 technical workshops and presentations.

The conference affords GIS professionals and students with the opportunity to share experiences, ideas, and methods used to map and layer spatial information through GIS technology and computer software. DFG relies heavily on the use of GIS for many of its natural resource management activities. This valuable tool is used to represent the real world because it can easily combine layers of information in various ways to conduct analyses and create maps.